

**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE
VIETNAM CONFLICT**

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FAX COVER SHEET

Date: 26 September 1994
To: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Fax: (703) 528-5795
From: James R. Reckner
Subject: Planning Update

Number of Pages (Including Cover Sheet): Three (3)

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Priscilla:

Please forward attached letter to the Admiral

Concerning the invitations that I had you hold. Please scrap them. I took action on them myself rather than bothering the Admiral with them.

Thanks.



James R. Reckner.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

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September 26, 1994

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Suite 641
Arlington, VA 22209

Fax: (703) 528-5795

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 1994, reporting on the delivery of President Lawless's invitation to General Giap. The response is the best we could anticipate, short of an outright acceptance. I have already made arrangements with the commander of Reese Air Force Base (just on the outskirts of Lubbock) to provide secure accommodations for General Giap should he actually come.

Following is a brief status report of outstanding projects:

1995 Army War College Vietnam Roundtable.

We now have firm commitments for every scheduled slot for the conference except one offering a general officer's view. Lieutenant General Davidson declined due to health; Lieutenant General Dave R. Palmer plans to attend, but cannot commit to speak because of the possibility of being called to testify before the Base Closure Committee. Therefore we have, on General Palmer's recommendation, invited Brigadier General Hubs Wass de Czegza to fill that slot. All other arrangements are in place for the conference. We will send out fliers soon.

1996 Vietnam Symposium

We have now received acceptances of our invitations from the majority of the individuals specifically invited. Among those accepting are Ambassador Colby, Dr. Walt Rostow, Ambassador Diem, Douglas Pike, Dr. Ilya Gaiduk from the Russian Academy of Sciences, and many others. Dr. Rostow advised me that he had talked with Mr. William Bundy a couple of weeks ago at Princeton, and that we should receive his acceptance soon.

All of the principal planned panels are now filled. We still have a certain shortage though, as a result of General Westmoreland's decision not to participate. I have in mind to invite one or more of the following officers to make the planned welcoming presentation on the Wednesday night, 17 April 1996, and possibly another to present the keynote speech at the banquet (unless, of course, you would like to do either):

VIETNAM CENTER NATIONAL COUNCIL
Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (RET), Chairman
General William C. Westmoreland, Hon. William E. Colby
Hon. William P. Bundy, Hon. Bui Diem, Professor Douglas Pike

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General Weyand
General Momyer
General Vogt

Concerning this I am particularly anxious to receive any advice that you might be able to offer. I know none of these officers personally, although I am certain Major General Faver will know both of the Air Force officers. Can you provide any idea as to which of the above might be most promising to invite as a speaker?

NEH Funding for 1996 Conference.

I have completed the final proposal (a remarkable piece of bureaucratic paperwork) for the National Endowment for the Humanities, requesting funding from them for the 1996 conference. I will send a copy to you via mail. I thank you for your letter of September 22, which I will include as one of the many required enclosures.

Approach to Perot.

We continue to prepare for this effort. General Westmoreland's decision not to participate in that effort has caused us to adopt another approach. Within the last two weeks the National Coalition of Vietnam Veterans has expressed considerable interest in our effort here, and has donated \$1,000 to the Center. In discussions with them, I learn that the Chairman of the Coalition, Mr. Tom Burch, who is a lawyer in Washington, served for a time as Mr. Perot's personal lawyer. Apparently he still maintains very close ties with Perot, presumably through his work with the Vietnam Veterans' Coalition.

Our Office of Development now intends to approach Mr. Burch to see whether he might travel with Dr. Lawless to visit with Perot. This might be a very useful approach, as Burch's representative, who visited here two weeks ago, volunteered that he thought the Vietnam project at Texas Tech was the most important Vietnam initiative since the end of the war. If he can infuse that enthusiasm into Mr. Burch, we might have just the right ally to approach Mr. Perot.

Vietnam Center Line Item in the State Budget

There are no new developments on this front at this time. I have been advised that funding for the Vietnam Center is now the number two priority for the University. As the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house are Texas Tech graduates, and the leader of the senate a former Marine and the senator from Lubbock, we are in a particularly strong position in Austin just now. I am optimistic.

Very respectfully,


James R. Reckner